



crane fly

representative species

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Diptera
Family:	Tipulidae

Features

Crane flies undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). The larva is one-third to three inches long and its head often is not visible as a separate section. Its long, cylindrical body has four fingerlike extensions used for breathing at the tip of the abdomen. The adult is brown and mosquito like with a slender, soft body. It has extremely long legs for its body size.

Natural History

Crane fly larvae may develop in water or moist soil. Adults live near water or where much vegetation is present. The larva eats a variety of foods from decaying plants to insects, but mainly decaying plant material. Adults seem to feed on plant nectar or don't eat. Crane fly adults are terrestrial (living on land). The female deposits eggs on submerged vegetation or other submerged objects.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens; bottomland forests; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.